

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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R 011132Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO USINFO WASHDC

USCINCEUR-ECAP

USNMR SHAPE

SECSTATE WASHDC 1213

USIA WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 5717

PASS IEU

SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE DURKEE

USIA FOR IOP/F

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MADRID PRESS ON NATO

1. NATO IS RECEIVING INCREASED PRESS ATTENTION. ABEL HERNANDEZ WRITES FOR JULY 29 INFORMACIONES (CENTRIST): "IN REFERENCE TO NATO, THE MADRID GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED FOR THE ENTRANCE OF SPAIN. NEUTRALITY IS VERY EXPENSIVE, AND IN THE SPANISH CASE, PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE...NATO, APART FROM ITS MILITARY IMPORTANCE, IS ONE OF THE BEST INFORMATION AND DECISION FORUMS IN THE WORLD. IT IS A CONTRADICTION THAT OUR COUNTRY SHOULD BE ABSENT FROM THIS. DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT, DESPITE THE OPPOSITION OF CERTAIN LEFTIST PARTIES, WOULD GIVE FAVORABLE RESULTS. ITALY ENTERED INTO THE ALLIANCE WITH A SMALL VOTE MARGIN IN PARLIAMENT. SPAIN COULD FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE. IN THE CASE OF NATO, ONCE

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WE WERE IN, NOBODY WOULD QUESTION THE FACT...THE GREATEST OBSTACLE IS THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS PRESSURING IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO IMPEDE THIS, INCLUDING 'ENCOURAGING' RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND 'PRESSURING' BUSINESSMEN. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE INTEGRATION OF SPAIN INTO NATO COULD BE SOON."

2. IN CONTRAST TO THIS POSITIVE ASSESSMENT, BARON DE SALESSI CONCLUDES IN A LONG ARTICLE IN JUNE 29 - JULY 5 BLANCO Y NEGRO (CONSERVATIVE, OWNED BY ABC): "SPAIN COULD OBTAIN A BETTER GEOPOLITICAL POSITION AND A GREATER STRENGTHENING OF HER GEOSTRATEGIC SITUATION BY MEANS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF LOSING HER FREEDOM OF ACTION IN BENEFIT OF THE ALLIANCE, AND WITHOUT INCURRING ADDITIONAL EXPENSES. IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE AGREEMENT BY THE PARTIES TO COME TO THE AID OF A MEMBER, IN CASE OF AN ARMED ATTACK, IS NOT AUTOMATIC AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY THE USE OF FORCE...

3. "THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES...AND OUR STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE CONFIRM IN PRACTICE OUR IDEOLOGICAL CONNECTION WITH THE WEST. SINCE OUR TERRAIN IS OF SUCH STRATEGIC INTEREST...AS MUCH FOR THE USSR AS FOR AMERICA, WHY NOT ATTEMPT A FOREIGN POLICY OPEN IN ALL DIRECTIONS? WHY NOT ATTEMPT A NEUTRALITY BETWEEN BOTH SUPER POWERS IN BENEFIT OF SPAIN?"

4. JULY 27 - AUGUST 2 BLANCO Y NEGRO: "AMONG THE ADVANTAGES TO SPAIN OF HER ENTRY INTO NATO FIGURE: ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND DECISIONS ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE; MODERNIZATION AND SHARPENING OF OUR ARMED FORCES; BENEFITS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO OUR MILITARY INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITATION FOR A FORMULA TO RECOVER OUR SOVEREIGNTY OVER GIBRALTAR.

5. "AMONG THE DISADVANTAGES, WHICH WEIGH MORE THAN THE ADVANTAGES...ARE LOSS OF FREEDOM OF ACTION...SUBORDINATION OF OUR OWN STRATEGY TO THAT OF NATO, INCREASE OF RISKS AT HOME AS A RESULT OF THE CREATION OF NEW MILITARY TARGETS; INCREASE IN COSTS THROUGH SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE; A NEGATIVE EFFECT UPON SOME OF OUR DEFENSE INDUSTRIES; INSISTENCE UPON CHANGES IN OUR OPERATING MILITARY SYSTEM; AND THE DIPLOMATIC IMPACT OUR INCORPORATION WOULD HAVE AGAINST THE WARSAW PACT, WHICH WOULD OBLIGE THE COMMUNIST MILITARY BLOC TO REINFORCE ITS STRATEGY IN THE EAST."

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 5717

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6. ONETIME U.S. CORRESPONDENT FELIX ORTEGA CONCLUDES
IN FIVE-ARTICLE SERIES FOR ARRIBA (GOVERNMENT ORINETED):
"IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP IN MIND THREE FUNDAMENTAL
FACTORS...THE FIRSTIS...THE ABSENCE OF SPANISH MILITARY
INTERESTS IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN CONTEXT. THE SECOND
ISTHE REAL FACTOR, CLEARLY OUTLINED IN DEBATES ABOUT THE
TOPIC IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE BASE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ONLY ONE REAL MILITARY EFFECT:
'TO REDUCE THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY OF SPAIN BY COMMITTING
SPAIN IN A NATO WAR OR A NUCLEAR WAR.' FINALLY THERE IS A FACTOR
OF A POPULAR NATURE OUTLINED IN AN AMERICAN REPORT
ENTITLED 'EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR ARMS' BY SAMUEL GLASSNE, PREPARED
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BY THE ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION, THAT INDICATES THAT AN ATTACK AGAINST THE
FOUR BASES ON SPANISH TERRIORTY WOULD 'ALMOST CERTAINLY'
CAUSE THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF SEVILLE, HEAVY DAMAGE
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IN CADIZ AND ZARAGOZA AND THE EVACUATION OF THE ENTIRE
POPULATION OF MADRID DURING MONTHS UNTIL RADIATION
EFFECTS DISAPPEAR.

7. "SUCH DAMAGES ARE BASED UPON THE EFFECTS TO THE
POPULATION CENTERS OF A GROUND-LEVEL EXPLOSION OF A
ONE-MEGATON BOMB, COMPLETELY TACTICAL, AND THAT DOES

NOT REQUIRE A NATO-WARSAW PACT WAR TO BE LAUNCHED, TO EXPLODE IN THE CENTER OF THE BASES IN QUESTION. THAT IS TO SAY, THE EFFECTS ARE MEASURED NOT FOR A BOMBARDMENT BY ERROR FALLING INTO THE CITY, BUT CONSIDERING THAT THE IMPACTS WERE HIGHLY ACCURATE AND STRICTLY OVER THE MILITARY INSTALLATION."

8. THE WRITER PROVIDES ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS REASONING BY THUS DESCRIBING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT DEFENSE COSTS: "THE WESTERN WORLD, IT IS CLEAR, HAS COMMERCIALIZED ITS DEFENSE AND IN NATO HAS CREATED, IN ADDITION TO A DEFENSE MECHANISM, A FABULOUS MARKET. IN NO OTHER WAY CAN BE UNDERSTOOD THE FACT THAT, DESPITE THE BALANCE BETWEEN FORCES PRESENT IN THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO, THE TOTAL COSTS OF THE PACT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY INFERIOR TO THOSE OF THE ATLANTIC ORGANIZATION. THE EXPLANATION APPEARS EVIDENT. ON ONE SIDE STRICTLY POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS DEMAND, AND ON THE OTHER, IN ADDITION TO THESE CONSIDERATIONS, ALSO THE MARKET DEMANDS. ONLY THUS CAN IT BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MILITARY BUDGET OF ROMANIA IS THAT OF PORTUGAL; THAT THE ONE OF BULGARIA IS HALF THAT OF PORTUGAL, THAT THE ONE OF EAST GERMANY IS SMALLER THAN THAT OF HOLLAND. OF COURSE ON THE MARGIN ARE THE GIANTS, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES, WITH SIMILAR BUDGETS. BUT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SPITE OF ALL THE ARGUMENTS THAT THE SOCIALIST BLOC COUNTRIES USE TRICKS IN THEIR BUDGET FIGURES, IT APPEARS TOO MANY TRICKS...EXACTLY, ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES CLAIM TO SPEND 8534 MILLION (8.5 BILLION) DOLLARS IN DEFENSE, AND WEST GERMANY, 15,200 (15.2 BILLION DOLLARS)..
."
ITEM. RYLAND

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